RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, the 14th August 1997/Shra-vana, 1919 (Saka)

The Bouse met at eleven of the clock.

The Deputy Chairman in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Madam, I would like to raise ... *(Interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Que* tion No. 321 ..... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Madam, would like to raise an issue concerning today's function. . . *(Interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: 1 am | not allowing it in the Question Hour. *(Interruptions)*. . I am not allowing it. *[Interruptions)*.. Please sit down You cannot raise it in the Question Hour. . .*(Interruptions)*.. You can raise it at twelve. .*(Interruptions)*

आप बैठिए । 12 बजे कर लीजिए। आपने अब एक नया लफड़ा, अपना लिया है कि क्वेश्चन आवर में पूछने लगते हैं ।

श्री संजय डालमिया : मैंने सवाल किया था।

उपसभापति : मैंने सवाल नहीं किया था । सिकन्दर बख्त साहब लीडर आफ अपोजीशन हैं । वे अगर खड़े होंगे तो मुझे उनको इजाजत करनी है और करनी चाहिए । मगर कोई भी खड़ा हो जाए, ऐसा थोड़ी चलता है । हाउस को चलाना है तो कायदे के मुताबिक चलाना होगा । उनकी आप मिसाल मत दीजिए । जब आप भी अपोजीशन के लीडर होंगे तो आपको भी सवाल करना ।

Propagation of the Family Planning message through Panchayats

*321. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether any efforts have been made to motivate Panchayats, which now have 33 per cent women representatives for propagating the message of family planning in villages; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) States have been advised to devotee spcific powers and responsibilities to Panchayats for Management of Health & Family Welfare Programme. Government of India has assisted States for sensitisation workshops for village level opinion leaders including Panchas and the Panchas have been prominently involved in Community mobilisation for Pulse Polio Immunisation. Under the participatory planning approach, the Health Workers Consult Panchayats to determine the felt need of the Community for contraceptives and terminal methods which becomes the target for the health workers for the year.

The States have been advised to devolve specific powers to the Panchayats for the management of health and family welfare programmes. The Government of India has assisted the States for giving these programmes for sensitising people across with the health and family welfare programmes so that there is a comprehensive approach to family planning.

DR. MOHAN BABU: Madam, the reply is very gra The reply is not on propagating the message of family planning. The naswer that has been given is regarding the Pulse Polio Immunisation. My submission is that the population of India has increased by three times since Indpendence. Nearly 80 per cent of our population resides in rural areas. It is, therefor, here that family planning is needed most. Newly formed panchayats and local bodies can provide an excellent forum to send the message of family planning effectively to the villages because 33 per cent members of panchayats are women. But, no serious effort has been made to utilise the panchayats for this important objective. It is time to evaluate our achievements and failures. We should lay

emphasis on deveopmect through empowerment of women. My supplementary questions are. . *(Ir.ten.uptions)* . .

THE DIPTY CHAIRMAN: Be brief. Let her answer this first question.

SHWMATI RENUKA CHOWDHUDREY: Madam, I think what should be understood by the House and the hon. Members j$_s$ that family we]far$_e$ is not to be treated in isolation with only contraceptives for preventing birth. Whea we bring down infant mortality^ then fertility drops becacse the mother is assured that her child will live. Tt is vital that immunisation and other programmes that w$_e$ have taken up under the National Health Scheme must he paid attention to. The best way to do it is through panchayats because there is direct access and control and funds go and reach the grassroots level. So, I would not deem it evasive when we say polio programmes have been gives to our panchayats because immunisation, as everybody knows, prevents way kind of health break-down and promotes healthy lifestyles amongst the rural poor. As the hon. Member has rightly said it is amongst our rural people where the popnlatibn continues to grow more as compared to urban rem*. Keeping m view these perspec-tives in mind, we hav$_e$ empowered the people and the panchaya's I rands direct from m and [he mendatJoni made by us have ht ried out and are V'"rect!v reflected in the proportion of replacement levels thst have been achieved in these areas

DR. MOHAM BABU: My Mttary question* *Unicrr*

THE DEPUTY I IMRMAS Vou My "my supplementary question is" *UnlrrrupI\Onj1*

DR. MOHAN BABU: I would like to know whether it is proposed to draw a different scheme for involving panchayats in the programmes of family planning in the rural areas. If so what are the details thereof? It is also understood that some training (counts are held for panchayat members frou time to time. I want to know if any element of family planning is there in these courses. If it is not so, will the hon. Minister advise the State Govern, ments w do so?

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHU-[RY: Madam, I think, the hon, Membs must understand that the question of devolution of powers by the State Gov. ernments of panchayats regarding family Welfare, including health infrastructure, has been taken up with the State Governments by my department, that is; the Department of Health and Family Welfare. We have had very good success in this. As much as 75,000 Manila Swasthya Sangha women, working in panchayats, have been gives training. The fact that today, in Indit like Tamil Nadu, Goa, Kerah and Andhra Pradesh, who have matk success stories, shows that we addressed ourselves to this problem

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN. Shri Ramji Lai.

DR. MOHAN BABU: No, no. Mv dam. I have to ask a second supplementary.

उपसभापति : दो हो गये हैं ।

DR MOHAN BABU: No, Madam I have asked only one. . *(Interrupt tow*

I HE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Y« have asked two questions.

DR MOHAN BABU: After ***(Interruptions)***. .

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: After two years you can ask all the questions. It is your duty to come every day.... (*Interruptions*).. Let others ask.. ... (*Interruptions*).. Mr. Mohan Babo, no doubt, you are a very good actor, but this stage has got many more actors. Let me allow others also. If necessary I will call you again. You have already asked two questions.

श्री रामजीलाल : उपसभापति महोदय, यह कंक्लूजन तो बड़ा अच्छा है कि परिवार नियोजन संबंधी संदेश को पंचायतों के माध्यम से प्रचार किया जाए । अब पंचायतों में आरक्षण 33 प्रतिशत हो चुका है और महिलाएं मैम्बर भी बन चुकी हैं। हमारे गांवों में तो यह हाल है कि महिलाएं पंचायतों की मैम्बर जरूर हैं लेकिन पंचायत-घर में उनकी जगह उनके हसबैंड आते हैं, उनके पति आते हैं और घर घर जाकर उनके दस्तखत कराते हैं। जब तक उनको एजुकेट नहीं किया जायेगा, जब तक मैम्बर्स की एजुकेशन नहीं होगी, तब तक यह कैसे सहायता करेंगी । मैं मंत्री महोदया से आपके द्वारा यह जानना चाहता हूं कि कंक्लूजन बड़ा अच्छा है और इससे गांवों में परिवार नियोजन के संबंध में महिलाएं बड़ी सहायता कर सकती हैं क्योंकि महिलाएं पंच भी हैं लेकिन उनको एजुकेट नहीं किया गया है । आपने यह कहा कि राज्य सरकारों को आपने हिदायतें दे दी हैं, लिख दिया है, मेरा कहना यह है कि केवल हिदायतें दे देने से काम नहीं चलता है । वहां कोई ऐसा तरीका अपनाया जाए क्योंकि गांवों के गरीब लोगों में परिवार नियोजन हो नहीं रहा है, पढ़े लिखे लोग तो कर रहे हैं । गांव की आबादी तो अनपढ़ लोगों की है, जो गरीब लोगों की है, वहां परिवार नियोजन नहीं अपनाया जा रहा है । इसलिए मैं मंत्री महोदया से यह जानना चाहता कि उनके लिए आप क्या उपाय करेंगे, क्या उनको एजुकेट करेंगे, एजुकेशन देंगे जिससे परिवार नियोजन पूरे देश में अपनाया जा सके ?

श्रीमती रेणुका चौधरी : मैडम, सवाल तो ओरिजिनल सवाल से हट कर है, फिर भी मैं आपको जवाब देने की कोशिश करूंगी । सब से पहली बात यह है कि महिलाएं पंचायतों में हों या कहीं और हों, पोस्टपी प्लानिंग का निर्णय पुरुषों द्वारा किया जाता है, पुरुष यह निर्णय करता है कि घर में कितने बच्चे होंगे । हमें अफसोस इस बात का है कि हमारे भारत देश में बढ़ती हुई जनसंख्या को रोकने के काम में पुरुष सिर्फ 3 प्रतिशत इसमें भाग लेते हैं और इसीलिए यह जरूरत पड़ी कि पार्लियामेंट में भी 33 प्रतिशत रिजर्वेशन ले आएं । क्योंकि यह सब को पता है, Exclusive economic development takes place when fertility rate drops. तो एजुकेशन और गरीबी के नाते आप यह कह रहे हैं, यह सच नहीं है । कई हमारे लोग ऐसे भी हैं जिनके पास 10–10, 12–12, 15–15 बच्चे होंगे ।

श्री रामजीलाल : अब नहीं है (व्यवधान) यह पहले की बात है । . . . (व्यवधान)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: RY: So, it has a national approach.. *(Interruptions)*.. It is a national approach and it is necessary for us that we take it as a national crisis management. आप सब अपनी अपनी पार्टी और अपने प्रदेशों से इस कार्यक्रम को मजबूत करेंगे । . . (व्यवधान)

उपसभापति : हम लोगों को पता लगना चाहिए कि यहां जितने लोग बैठे हैं उनके कितने बच्चे हैं । Because charity begins at home

PROF. (SHRIMATI) **BHARATI** RAY: Madam, I am in agreement with hon. Minister that the Family Planning Programme cannot be treated in isolation. It has to be dealt with along with economic problems, particularly health problems. However, I could not follow her fully because she spoke in Hindi. But, in my humble view, the entire family planning policy cannot succeed in India unless the focus is shifted. That is to say, women do not have control over their bodies in India. Nor do they decide the number of children they are going to have. If they have two girls, three girls, the pressure is on the women by men. in the hope that the next one would be a boy. Therefore, my specific question is: is the Gov-

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vernnient planning to change the four and target men,, primarily men, in carrying out the family planning programme? Do we have a plan? This is what I would like to know from the hon. Minister. Thank you,

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Madam, must say, the hon. Member has hit the nail on the head. We ate going to do this. In the new approach, we are going to address this question. We are going to target men also and enable men to overcome their fear and inhibitions that may have contributed to this.

Today, in our country, we have non-scalpel vasectomy. This has been very successful. We are now trying to get those people who have undergone this kind of a surgery to come forward and counsel others to participate in this.

There is also the development of a hormone^ called FHS hormone, which could be given as an injection to the man. This is under clinical trials. I am optimistic that in the ncnr future, we would be able to bring this out.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): Madam, may I say one thing? I entirely agree with what the hon. Member has said when she talked about the men's attitude. I agree with her Therefore, in the new plan which my hbn. frined is making, when the question of penalising those who have large families comes up, men will he aimed at more than women.

I HI- DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Would ihey a|ree? I think we will have to puraue: create the right atmosphere. *ilnirrrupiions)*.

आप लोग तो खाली कमेंट कर दीजिए जो प्रधान मंत्री जी ने किया है। कोई सवाल वत पूछिए ।

श्री किशोरी लाल भतुवेदी : मैडम, प्रधान मंत्री जी ने तो हम लोगों को बहुत चीजों का कमिटमेंट कर दिया है ...(व्यवधान)...

उपसभापति : आप करिए

Planning is more important. *(Interrup. tions)*. As a Member of Parliament, you have the duty to commit yourself to the country. Shrimati Veena Verma.

श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा : मैडम, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहती हूं कि हमारा इस संबंध में टार्गेट क्या है और क्या सन् 2000 तक हम उस टार्गेट को पूरा कर लेंगे । पहले यह 3 बच्चे का था, फिर 2 का हुआ और अब क्या हम 'चाइल्ड मार्ग' अपनाने जा रहे हैं? क्या हम नई पापुलेशन पालिसी को एडाप्ट करने जा रहे हैं और उसका टार्गेट क्या है ?

दूसरे मैडम बीजिंग कांफरेंस में यह बात आई थी कि हम लोगों को टार्गेट की फैमिली प्लानिंग पालिसी बनानी चाहिए । इस बारे में मंत्री जी क्या कहना चाहती हैं और मैडम, कुछ वर्षों पहले दूरदर्शन पर राष्ट्रीय समाचारों से पहले जनसंख्या घड़ी दिखाई जाती थी या फिर सुबह-सुबह जब टी.वी. शुरू होता था तब जनसंख्या घड़ी दिखायी जाती थी । अब वह सब बंद हो गया है । मैडम, जब वह जनसंख्या घड़ी दिखायी जाती थी तब कुल जनसंख्या कितनी थी, आज कितनी है और कितने माइग्रेंट बढ़ गए, यह कभी पता नहीं गया। मैंने कई बार इस बारे में लिखा और कई बार लिखने के बाद यह कहा गया कि आप सूचना समाचार केन्द्र को लिखिए/ सूचना विभाग को लिखिए और वह बंद कर दी गयी। तो क्या आप उसे फिर से चलाएंगे ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Madam, I accept it. I accept the hon. Member's recommendation. We will attend to it forth-
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THE DEPUTY CHARMAN: A v«1> rood suggestion

श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा : मेरा एक छोटा सा पूरक प्रश्न और बाकी रह गया कि माना दी एडवर्टाइजमेंट को हम बहुत जोर से पकवाते थे, लेकिन जनसंख्या घड़ी को कभी नहीं पकवाया । मैंने इस बारे में बहुत कोशिश की, लेकिन वह कभी नहीं

पढ़वाई गई और जन्म संख्या घड़ी दिखायी जाती थी तो टी० वी० चूर रहता था। मैं चाहूंगी कि उसे जोर से पढ़वाया जाये। क्या आप ऐसा करेंगे ?

मैडम, हमने लड़की की शादी की उम्र 18 वर्ष रखी है, क्या उसे बढ़ाने पर आप विचार करेंगे । मैडम, पहले फैमिली प्लानिंग एडॉप्ट करने पर इन-सेंटिव दिया जाता था, वह बंद हो गया है । क्या उसे आप फिर से चालू करेंगे ?

उपसभापति : बीणा जी, आप सबके सवालात मत पूछ लीजिए। सब लोग इस की तरह मुंह से नाराज हो जाएंगे ।

श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा : मैडम, अभी तक तो सिर्फ पुरुष ही इस बारे में पूछते रहे हैं अर्थात वे कुछ अपनाते नहीं हैं ।

SHRTMATT RENUKA CHOWDHURY. Madam, the revised Health and Family Welfare Policy would be brought before the House for discussion as soon as I

As regards the 'target free' approach. a_s was discussed in the Beijing Confer ence, India has already adopted the 'target free' approach in this. Here, I must $^{c}!^{a_n}$fv because many conflicting questions and thoughts have ariaeB from this When w_e say target free*, It is not that we arc goinc to let the health workers sit idle; have a holiday. It i« that, we will not now decide how many ICDs., how many pills, how many con doms, would he ^iv-en I[1] cd for lily planning by their own choice wffl come from the grass-root*, r Health W "ue to • them So. the question 'hat w_e will clMftpra. iloe, not a

A» regards incentive, for family P***-ning every once a while we revise our approach and our attitude to make fa-m.'lv p'inning much mor_e viable and

I would like to introduce a no: caution. Please don't compare «a*'» »ith China became w_e have two distinct political systems which rule over us. If you are going to empower me to do what China $h:i_s$ done, then, it has to be a democratic approach which all of you will decide. W_e are her_e only to execute th; will of the House.

श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा : क्या दूरदर्शन को आप यह आदेश देंगे कि वह जनसंख्या यहीं दिखाये और पढ़वाए ?

SHRIMAT1 RENUKA CHOWDHURY The hon. Prime Minister hj_s piven an assurance and jt will be dom/

श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा : शुक्रिया ।

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Madam. there are near about 800 Members of Parliament. There are near ahout 4,000 Members of Legislative Assemblies and ri\> Councils. The lota] comes to There are round about 100,000 Panchas and Sarpanchas. The ivimber of contesting canJidatea for all these elective pos's comes to round about 10

Will the Government seriously consi-djng the Representation of the People Act or the Local Bodies Act, a_s has been done in Rajasthan, whereby it has been provided that hereafter, since 1993 onwards, if any elected Panch or Sarpanch, whatever the sex gets a third child, he or she would be disqualified Your problem will be solved. You say that it is men who decide about it. If you make a provision like this there will be no coercion. There will be no coercion like that of 1976. It is voluntary. If you want to go to Parliamentary you will have to follow this norm. If you want to be a Member of Panchayat or a Member of Assembly, you have to follow this norm. With eight children or ten children, you cannot be a Member of Assembly or Chief Minister or Prime Minister. Two years ago, somebody had ten, and somebody else had nine. We know it.

So will the Government consider amending the laws to lay down disqualification for those who have more than

wo or three children after a particu-ar date so as not to resort to coercion tud so as to create a disincentive for those who violate this national norm?

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: What will happen to you, Agarwalji?

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL. My daughter has got two daughters, and she is not going to have another child.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Not youT daughter, but your wife.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL. My sons also. I have got three children, left us have a talk on who is who..... (*Inierri(Plions)*

I am not like 'he former Prime Minister who has nine.

I do hope that the Minister concerned will do this. I have read your •>•Element in the Press.

Will the Government seriously consider this question of bringing a legislation on the linej of Rajasthan and, maybe, some other States, I do not known laving down disqualification for people having more than two or three children[1]'

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA Prospective or retrospective?

THE BOOTY CHAIRMAN: Please let her answer this

SMtlMMl RFNITCA CHOWDHU-RY: Madam. I would like to have the attention of the House. It is vjtnl that j the omrntrv is «i«d »ith the importance *vt* iliKautag oor population situation wtrtek tan reached a eri*is mana-*pemtm* krel

(n order to «o tnis. »w»t *» moraine then *** • di<cwitan beta in the P rtiameflt Heme Anoeie with lenders and itnninnnrsan of *rniom* political 1 parties where this vary issue was dh-co»d Thi. Bill wa» brought for I Paiffesnent in 19*2

I «so« to notion U»j» thin* la brief *H* tfb»« all of yon know when wn itukl.

On August 12, 1996, a discussion took place. It was thought best to refer it to political parties. This morning, a formal discussion took place, which was the first of a serious of discussions so that we debate this Bill threadbare.

The question of coercion does not arise because it is a voluntary participation. Those who do n°t participate in the electoral process, need not adhere to what we are saying. But, in reality, the fact remains that there was a overwhelming response to this thought. Some reservations were also expressed because it was perceived to be somt-thing else and that it was not in the spirit in which the Bill was brought forward. It was perceived to he something else and not in the spirit in which the Bill has been brought forward. If and when the Bill comes to Parliament, it will necessarily take prospective effect with a cut-off point bf nine to ten months so that it enables Members to have clarity of thought and action.

Also Madam, the Bill has to be com-prehensive as we know atrocities against women keep on mounting that they will not misuse this and women will not be compelled to go in for forced I termination of pregnancies or other such mal-practices which are rising in our society. I am happy to say that there were valuable suggestions given. One of the suggestions given earlier in thai debate—I tannot really reveal everything that toolc place in the meeting as I Km not authorised to is that not only elected Members of As-semblies and Parliament will he covered, out those who are employed by the Government will ais0 be covered. That means people from all levels mast also be brotisht under the purview of this Bill <o that it forms motivation and an optima defcrrant <-> that we can together work on ttyjs will. I hope when 1 bring the Bill to this House. >' will enjoy the tmanimoui support of •11 «l you. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN You j m»y »)*0 take care that (he, may not be misused by men Tlfcy can disown U» enfld.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Madam, the Bil] will take cognisance of the biological parents. It will be paternity-based.

WELCOME TO THE HON. SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have an announcement to make.

We have with us, seated in the special Box, Rt. Hon. Ms. Betty Boothroyd, Speaker of the House of Commons of United Kingdom, currently en a visit to our country as oar honoured guest.

On behalf of the Members of the House and on my own behalf, I take plexsure >n extending a hearty welcome to Rt. Hon. Ms. Betty Boothroyd and wish otr distinguished guest an enjoyable and fruitful stay in our country. We hope that during her stay here, she would be able to see and learn more about our Parliamentary system, our country and our people, and that her visit to this country will further streng-rhan the friendly bond* that exist between India and the United Kingdom. Through her we convey our greeting and best wishes to 'he Parliament and 'he friendly people of United Kingdom

ORAL ANSWERS TO 01 F.STIONs—

Coatd Question No. 3JI—Con<d.

THE mPtrTY CHAIRMAN N • should we have some family plan nil »g 00 this question? 1 hav$_e$ at least SO names before me It is enough, because all the questions ar$_e$ going to fee same. Let n> have some more questions, because everyday we take more than hatf-aa-hour for *erne* question. Question H

Problems (seed by latitats wariiai la Gaff cwmtrks

J:: SHRI M \ BAB-i viM the PRIME asTNISTYJt he aliased to |*N» to answer to faetaned QaaaTJe* M given in the Rajya Sabha on the 31st July 1997 and state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the problems faced by Indians working in Knwait/UAE and other Gulf countries due to fradulent recruiting agencies and sponsors; and

(b) the details of steps taken by our Missions i$_B$ these countries to help thosa Indians who have been cheated in various ways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE M'MSTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA): A copy of the answer $_{to}$ the Rajya Sabha Un-surred Question No. 942, dated 31.7.97 referred to m the above referrej Starred Question k enclosed *(See* below a* Statement-!)

(*) and lb) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. (Sutemeat-II 1

SMrmeot-I

Repatriation of Malavali nurse, from Kuwait

942. SHRI KRISHNA KUM*R B4R-LA: Will tae PRIME MINISTER be Pleased u> state:

(a) whether lb* Kerala GnaaraalK has requcsred for the Caatral Government's interveatioti for repafnactoa of a large number *f Malayaaj aura* »K.i have taken refuge ia lb* laeUan Haaliasy to Kuwait:

(M if so, what are the detasls thereof and

what steps haw bee* tabaa by Governmenl in this regard?

I Ml MIKaTa OF STsTl IN THI UN\i SJFPAIKS - ! M \ I I KAMLA *VHHA* (a) and Sir. The Chief Mia Kerala ia a tetter dated *tUM* requested la* Prrase Maaiatar of Ind a's iaasr aarftka* to Ma the saawas. who bad taken shatter to «ba bvlasn I «-**•« pre. aajats r» Hawaii foHpwiwg a di-saae with the* aa»|ise»ii Of fat MS aartiac aaitstaau secntratu for M/. / bdat Asb YosaW M-Bssa Kawaa fa* aah M •